


ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
OF THE
Urban District Council
OF
HEBDEN BRIDGE,
BY
J. LAWSON, M.B.,
UNIV., DUB.

Presented February, 1898.

Hebden Bridge :

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HEBDEN BRIDGE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer's Report.

HEBDEN BRIDGE, 16th February, 1898.

GENTLEMEN,—

The following is the twentieth Annual Report which I have the privilege to lay before you, and which on perusal I think you will find to fully maintain, if not surpass in importance, the considerable sanitary progress already effected in Hebden Bridge during any preceding year.

I estimate **The Population** to the middle of the year 1897 to be 8000, an increase of 300 on that of the year 1896. I make this calculation on the usual basis, viz., the number of newly-built houses occupied in 1896 and the natural increase of population given by excess of births over deaths for that year.

The Births Registered during the year 1897 have been 159, viz., 87 males and 72 females, giving an annual birth-rate of 19·8 per 1000. The number of births and rate for the year 1896 were respectively 156 and 20·2 per 1000. This birth-rate (19·8) is the lowest recorded in twenty years, and probably the smallest ever known for this district. The aggregate birth-rate of Hebden Bridge for the last ten years equals 25·4 per 1000 per annum. The corresponding birth-rate for the previous ten years was equal to 30·3 per 1000 per annum. The low birth-rate is about the only feature in this Annual Report on which I am unable to congratulate the Council; in all other particulars I consider it is essentially favourable.

The Deaths Recorded during the year 1897 have been 98, viz., 57 males and 41 females, yielding an annual rate of 12·2 per 1000 ; a decrease on that of the year 1896, when there were 107 deaths and a rate per 1000 of 13·8. This is the second lowest death-rate I have reported to the Authority. It should be really 12·6 per 1000, as three deaths of persons residing in Hebden Bridge occurred away from home, and were registered in other districts. These 98 deaths are distributed as follows: Eighteen are those of infants under one year old, against 22 in the same class for the year 1896. This infant mortality, measured by the proportion of deaths under one year to births registered, is equal to 113·2 per 1000. The proportion of deaths in infants under one year to every 1000 births registered in the year 1896 was 141 per 1000. Eleven deaths were those of children over one but under five years, against fourteen during the year 1896. Thirty-seven were the deaths of persons aged sixty and upwards, against thirty-four in the year 1896. One death was registered without medical certificate of cause of death, and one inquest was held in a case of violent death, against three uncertified deaths and three coroner's inquiries for the previous year. Eleven deaths, with a rate of 1·3 per 1000 per annum, have resulted from the seven principal zymotic diseases, compared with seven deaths and an annual rate of 0·9 per 1000 from the same diseases for the preceding year. This zymotic death-rate should be 1·6 per 1000 per annum instead of 1·3 per 1000, two deaths occurring in patients at the Fever Hospital who belonged to Hebden Bridge and were registered in Todmorden. The eleven deaths from these zymotic or infectious diseases are as follows: Measles 6, Diphtheria 2, Whooping Cough 2, and Diarrhœa 1.

The Infectious Diseases reported to me under the "Notification Act" have been 26, against 46 for the year 1896. They include four of typhoid fever, seven of scarlet fever, one of puerperal fever, eleven of erysipelas, and three of diphtheria. Seven cases of infectious disease were removed for treatment to the Fielden Hospital, four of scarlet fever and three of typhoid fever. Fifteen infectious cases were removed from your district to the Infectious Hospital in the year 1896.

Measles.—This disease, the most important I have had to deal with for the year 1897, commenced in the neighbourhood of Stubbing, in the beginning of September. I was not aware of its existence until the end of that month. It spread quickly and soon attained large proportions. It was found necessary to close

the Stubbing Board School on the 1st October. The disorder in the meantime spreading to the middle portion of the town, and affecting the Central Board School which was closed on the 21st October, and finally extending slowly to the western portion of the district and attacking the National School, Mytholm, which was closed on 3rd December. At the end of December the epidemic had rapidly disappeared from the whole of the Council's district. It caused six deaths, a small number when its extensive prevalence is considered. The closure of schools has, in my opinion, had a most excellent effect in suppressing this outbreak of measles. This action was only taken when it became a matter of urgency and was in each instance adopted, with the full concurrence of the school authorities concerned, and at the same time not too late to be beneficial in the interests of public health. The other means at disposal for arresting the spread of this disease have been tried, but as before, have proved ineffectual. Children suffering from measles in a manufacturing population cannot be isolated in their homes, and their brothers and sisters will go to school in spite of the vigilance of school teachers. Notification of measles, as a method of prevention, has been tried by other authorities, and after a trial discarded. I do not consider it would materially assist us here. The public look on measles as a trifling ailment, and one which all children must go through, and the sooner the better. Medical men are in many cases not called in attendance. It is, however, a serious disorder, and the death-rate is not only increasing but stands one of the highest from the seven principal infectious diseases. The three previous epidemics of measles in Hebden Bridge occurred as follows:—The first commenced in November 1886 and terminated early in 1887, with seventeen deaths. The second began in September, 1889, invading first Stubbing Board School and then the National School, Mytholm, both of which were closed, with rapid disappearance of measles before the end of that year, and causing seven deaths. The third, a mild one in character and small in numbers, occurred in December 1893, Stubbing Board School again receiving the primary attack, and continuing in the district for about nine months, finishing up with the National School at Mytholm in the months of April, May, and June, 1894. No schools were closed in this outbreak and five deaths resulted. The history of the epidemics of 1889, 1893, and 1897, is peculiar, inasmuch as Stubbing district and School in each period appears to have originated the disease, and may point to the probability of it being conveyed to Hebden Bridge by east winds from other districts lower down the valley, where measles have already been prevalent.

Scarlet Fever was reintroduced into Hebden Bridge on the 26th February by a child who received the infection away from home. The last previous notification of this complaint occurred on the 9th September, 1896, the finish of the mild epidemic of that year. Two others followed in the same family, all of whom were removed to the Fielden Hospital. Seven cases altogether, with one death, were reported for the year 1897, the latest one on the 1st October.

Typhoid Fever was much less prevalent than it was in 1896. Four cases only were notified, against twelve for the preceding year. Three of these were sent to Hospital, of whom one died. The first case was notified in January, and an adjacent water supply, which may have received contamination from defective drainage on the hill side above, was rendered more safe by the repair and re-construction of the drains in question. The second case happened in Foster-lane. The water in use in the house was suspected, and on analysis was found to be polluted and dangerous to health. A prosecution was undertaken, and an order received from the Todmorden Bench of Magistrates to cut off the supply. I cannot offer any decided opinion as to the origin of the 3rd and 4th cases. The 3rd occurred in a perfectly new house with drainage up-to-date, pure water supply, &c. I do think, however, that typhoid fever is occasionally originated in our district from outside sources. I refer more particularly to the possibility of the typhoid bacilli being conveyed in oysters, mussels, and other shell fish which are taken as articles of food. Sporadic cases of typhoid fever have taken place here which appear unaccountable in any other way.

Diphtheria.—I have had three notifications of this disease, two in children, both of whom died suddenly; the third was in an adult and appeared to be only a slight attack.

Influenza has been very much in evidence throughout the whole year. It has caused six deaths directly, and probably several more indirectly. It is a most insidious and treacherous malady, and seems almost to have become an endemic disease of this country.

Whooping Cough has been very prevalent, and accounts for two deaths.

Diarrhœa has been on the decline for two years. One death is attributed to it.

The Deaths from Natural Causes of a non-zymotic character, and having no bearing on the sanitary condition of your district, do not require any special notice in this report.

Diseases of the **Respiratory Organs** are somewhat under the average rate, and those of **Heart** somewhat above.

I have frequently visited the Registered Lodging-houses and found them clean and orderly.

The result of my inspection of Bake-houses is also satisfactory. They are clean and regularly lime-washed.

The nuisances arising from **Emission of Smoke** during the year 1897 have been on the increase, and have caused some complaint. They have been reported on by your Inspector, and still demand attention.

House Building is proceeding apace. Sixty-five newly-built houses became occupied in 1897, compared with fifty-seven in 1896. The prospect for 1898 in this department appears very promising.

The Sanitary Improvements of 1897 are as follows :— Another water filter has been completed at Hollins Hall ; a sight for a refuse tip has been selected and sanctioned at Eaves Bottom ; the new system of main sewerage has been commenced and already made considerable progress ; and Back Sackville-street has been paved.

Appended are the usual annual returns, together with the report of the Inspector, which deals in detail with the sanitary work completed during the year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. LAWSON M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Inspector's Report of the Sanitary Work, &c., completed during the Year 1897.

No. of Complaints received during the year.....	21
No. of Inspections made.....	1280
Orders issued for Sanitary Amendments of Houses and Premises	54
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Diseases	10
House Drains Repaired, Cleansed, &c.	43
Trapped or Ventilated.....	9
Privies or Water Closets Cleansed ...	17100
New Privies Provided.....	68
Privies Covered, &c.	15
Houses supplied with Water	99
No. of Lodging-houses Registered under the 35th Clause of Sanitary Act, 1866	5
Removal of Accumulations of Dung, Stagnant Water, Animal, and other Refuse—No. of Loads.....	1100
No. of Licensed Slaughter-houses Inspected	8
Other Proceedings, <i>e.g.</i> , Legal Proceedings	1

(Signed) **EMMETT SMITH,**

Nuisance Inspector.

Table No. 1.—Showing Deaths from Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases for Ten Years.

Year.	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Fevers.	Diarrhoea, Dysentery, and Cholera.	Total.	Rate per 1000 per annum.
1888	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	0.6
1889	0	7	1	1	3	1	1	14	2.2
1890	0	0	9	0	0	1	1	11	1.6
1891	0	3	1	0	7	0	1	12	1.8
1892	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	4	0.5
1893	0	1	0	1	2	2	1	7	1.0
1894	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	6	0.8
1895	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0.2
1896	0	0	0	0	4	3	0	7	0.9
1897	0	6	0	2	2	0	1	11	1.3

Table No. 2.—Showing Mortality from all Causes at subjoined Ages for Ten Years.

Year.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 60	60 and upwards	Total.
1888	26	8	7	9	31	23	104
1889	27	14	4	5	29	28	107
1890	19	13	3	2	31	39	107
1891	26	13	4	11	41	31	126
1892	27	9	6	4	33	30	109
1893	22	9	0	4	17	32	84
1894	22	7	7	2	32	33	103
1895	16	13	4	8	29	35	105
1896	22	14	6	4	27	34	107
1897	18	11	4	3	25	37	98

Table No. 3. — Showing Estimated Population, Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Number of Deaths under One Year, with Rate per 1000 Births for Ten Years.

Year.	Deaths under 1 year.		Births.	Deaths.	Birth- rate.	Death- rate.	Estimated Population
	No.	Rate per 1000 births					
1883	26	139·7	186	104	31	17·3	6000
18 9	27	140·5	192	107	30·7	17·1	6250
1890	19	115·8	164	107	25·2	16·4	6500
1891	26	127·4	204	126	30·6	18·8	*6658
1892	27	158·8	170	109	25	16	6776
1893	22	118·9	185	84	26·4	12	7000
1894	22	134·1	164	103	22·7	14·3	7200
1895	16	94·1	170	105	22·8	14	7450
1896	22	141·0	156	107	20·2	13·8	7700
1897	18	113·2	159	98	19·8	12·2	8000

* According to Census.

Table No. 4.—Showing Mortality from the Different Classes of Disease for Ten Years.

Causes.	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897
Smallpox.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	0	7	0	3	0	1	5	0	0	6
Scarlatina	0	1	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria ...	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Croup	1	0	0	0	4	2	0	1	2	0
Whooping Cough ...	0	3	0	7	2	2	0	0	4	2
Typhus Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	4	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3	0
Other Fevers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diarrhœa and Dysentery	0	1	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	1
Cholera	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rheumatic Fever	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Erysipelas	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pyœmia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Ague	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phthisis	13	10	10	12	10	4	6	9	8	6
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	23	15	19	44	18	16	17	23	27	22
Heart	4	7	9	5	10	4	4	2	8	8
Injuries	4	1	1	2	3	3	6	2	3	1
Other Diseases ..	54	58	56	51	60	48	64	65	52	48
Total	104	107	107	126	109	84	103	105	107	98

Table No. 5.—Showing the Births, Deaths from all Causes, and from certain Special Causes in each Quarter of 1897.

Quarter ending	Births.	Deaths from all Causes.	DEATHS FROM			
			Seven Prin cip'l Zymotic Diseases	Phthisis	Diseases of Lungs	Heart Disease.
March 31st	44	31	0	1	8	0
June 30th	47	18	1	4	4	2
September 30th	27	18	4	0	2	3
December 31st	41	31	6	1	8	3
Total	159	98	11	6	22	8

Table of Deaths during the Year 1897, with the Population
and the Births during the year.

Census, 1891.	Registered Births.	Deaths all ages.	Under 1 Year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards
6,658	159	98	18	11	4	3	34	28
Estimated Population to middle of 1897, 8,600.								

Mortality from all Subjoined Causes.

Causes.	Under 5 Years of Age.	Above 5 Years of Age.
Smallpox	0	0
Scarlatina	0	0
Diphtheria ..	1	1
Membranous Croup.....	0	0
Typhus Fever	0	0
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	0	0
Other or Doubtful Fever	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	1
Cholera	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0
Measles ..	6	0
Whooping Cough.....	2	0
Diarrhœa and Dysentery	0	1
Rheumatic Fever.....	0	1
Phthisis	1	5
Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	10	12
Heart Disease	0	8
Influenza	1	5
Injuries	0	1
All other Diseases	8	34
Total	29	69

Table of Cases of Infectious Sickness during Year 1897.

Causes.	Under 5 Years of Age.	Above 5 Years of Age.
Smallpox	0	0
Scarlatina	3	4
Diphtheria.....	1	2
Membranous Croup.....	0	0
Typhus Fever	0	0
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	0	4
Other or Doubtful Fever	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	1
Cholera	0	0
Erysipelas	0	11

Number of such Cases removed from their Homes for
Treatment in Isolation Hospital.

Scarlatina 4.

Enteric or Typhoid Fever 3.

TABLE C, 1897.

HEBDEN BRIDGE URBAN COUNCIL SANITARY DISTRICT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—J. LAWSON, M.B.

SANITARY INSPECTOR—Mr. EMMETT SMITH.

WATER SUPPLY—

No. of Houses having constant Public Supply—1076.

Obtained from Public Mains.

Gathering Grounds—{ Situation—Moorlands.
 { Extent—2,223 Acres.

Any inadequacy in any part—No.

Quality—Good.

Action on Lead—Slight.

Any extensions or change during 1897 ?—No.

SEWERAGE—

Extensions or Improvements during 1897—Commencement of Main
Sewers (New Scheme).

SEWAGE DISPOSAL—

Treatment now in operation—Water Closets and Pails used on
Land.

Treatment proposed—(New Scheme) Precipitation and Filtration.

ADOPTIVE ACTS—

Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890—29th November, 1893.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890— ,, ,,

BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS IN FORCE—

	Date of Adoption	Inspection.	General Condition.
Scavenging... ..	Jan. 1867	Regular	Good.
Nuisances	„		„
Common Lodging Houses	„		„
New Streets and Building	„
Dairies	1889
Cowsheds			
Milkshops			
Slaughter Houses...	1867
Canal Boats	Local Government Regulations enforced.		

Scheme for Local Government Board—Tip for Refuse, Eaves-bottom, 11th November.

Local Government Board Inquiries—Tip for Refuse, Eaves-bottom, 11th November.

Local Government Board Inspection—Tip for Refuse, Eaves-bottom, 11th November.

Special Reports by M.O.H. during 1897—Three.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL—Any action during 1897 ?—No.

MISCELLANEOUS—

Number of Houses built and occupied during 1897—65. Mostly Cottage Houses.

Is House-to-house Inspection systematically made? Inspection has been made.

Total number of Nuisances in hand at close of 1896—None.

At close of 1897 ?—None.

Reported during 1897—64.

Abated during 1897—64.

Total Number of Summonses, or other Legal Proceedings—One.

Number of Sink wastes disconnected during 1897—9.

„ „ trapped „ 9.

CLOSETS—

Number constructed during 1897—68.

Kinds—65 Water Closets and 3 Pail Closets.

What action has been taken in regard to the following matters :

Houses unfit for Habitation—None. Overcrowding—None.

Seizure of Unsound Food—None. Prosecutions—None.

Samples under Sale of Food and Drugs Acts—5. Prosecutions—None.

River Pollution—None.

Smoke Abatement—Notices served. Number of Observations taken—40.

Schools—Number in District—3. Number closed on account of Outbreaks of Disease—3. Total duration of closure from this cause—Three Weeks each.

Burial Grounds—Number in District—2. Any need for Extension—Yes.

Vaccination—General Efficiency—Next to None.

BIRTHS—(a) Number of each Sex—Males 87, Females 72 ; Total 159.

(b) Number Illegitimate, included in the above—1.

(c) Any information as to Still-Births—None.

DEATHS—(a) Number of each Sex—Males 57, Females 41 ; Total 98.

(b) Number uncertified, included in the above—1.

Rateable Value as stated in Valuation List — £29,646.

Value upon which the General District Rate is Assessed—

Full Rateable Value (Houses, etc.)—£25,297.

One-fourth Rateable Value (Land, etc.) — £1,087.

Rate in £, 1897—2s.

Nuisance Inspector's Report.



14TH FEBRUARY, 1898.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit my report for the year 1897, which is my seventeenth annual one on the sanitary work carried out in the Council's district

The Number of Houses in the district at the close of the year was 1,830, an increase of 73 over the year 1896. The number of houses now supplied with water from the public mains is 1,076, as compared with 977 at the close of the previous year.

The total **closet accommodation** for dwelling-houses is 1,101, an increase for the year of 68, which is made up of 65 water closets and 3 pail closets; the 81 closets constructed in the year 1896 were all on the water carriage principle, which seems likely to be the system of the future, and it is very desirable that it should be

Sewerage—The extension of sewers apart from the general sewerage system which is now in course of construction, has been very limited, having been confined to the laying of branches from the main trunks to a few blocks of houses only, and will probably not exceed 250 yards altogether.

House Drainage—This has formed an important item in the year's work, requiring about 250 special inspections, as in addition to drains laid for the 73 new houses, 52 others in connection with old property have either been repaired or relaid altogether. Trapping and disconnection of sink, lavatory, and bath pipes has been carried out in all drains laid for new houses, and also in a few others connected with old ones.

Altogether, 54 notices have been served, 44 for the **erection of eaves troughs**, and 7 for the **abatement of nuisances** arising from the emission of dense smoke, leaving 3 only for the 67 other nuisances which I have had to deal with.

Of the 26 cases reported to the Medical Officer under the **Notification Act**, 7 were removed to the Hospital, 3 of them from one house. Ten houses were disinfected after the removal or recovery of the patients, and one bed destroyed.

Five samples of milk were purchased in accordance with the provisions of the Food and Drugs Acts and transmitted to the County Analyst, who reported them all to be genuine.

Three samples of **suspected drinking-water** were also sent to the same Analyst, who reported one of the samples to be polluted ; and action was afterwards taken by the Council which resulted in the closing of the well from which the water had come.

The Scavenging of the district has been carried on as usual by the Council's sanitary staff in a satisfactory manner, but many complaints have been made about the way in which the nightsoil has been disposed of. Complaints have also been made about the nuisance caused by the disposal of fish and vegetable refuse since the Council were obliged to refuse it at the tip. As the area of the district is so limited, much of this objectionable matter has been disposed of outside the boundary, and hence some of these complaints.

Amongst other matters claiming attention has been the due observance of the **Council's regulations** by the proprietors of dairies and cowsheds, slaughter-houses, and common lodging-houses.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

E. SMITH,

Nuisance Inspector.

Canal Boat Report.



17TH JANUARY, 1898.

GENTLEMEN,—

In submitting my 12th annual report as Inspector of Canal Boats to the Hebden Bridge Urban and Todmorden Rural District Councils, I am pleased to be able to state that no contraventions of the Acts or Regulations were met with on any of the 80 boats inspected in the two districts during the year.

The total sleeping accommodation for which these 80 boats were registered was 448 adults, but the number occupying the cabins was only 218, including 22 women and 23 children, as compared with 166 men, 39 women and 21 children on the 79 boats inspected in the previous year.

Only 9 out of the 23 children were of school age, and several of these were only accompanying their parents on a single voyage as a sort of pleasure trip.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

E. SMITH,

Inspector.

